GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1913
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2014
FAITH IN JUDICIARY
Yellaiah Shri Nandi

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Supreme Court during 2012 had made an observation that the people`s faith in the judiciary was decreasing thereby posing a threat to Constitutional and Democratic governance of the country;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the number of Judgements delivered by the Supreme Court but kept pending for delivery to the respective States and Union Territories during 2009, 2010 and 2011 along with the reasons therefor; and

(d) the other steps taken / proposed to be taken by the Government to restore the faith in the judiciary?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a) to

(d): The Supreme Court has expressed its concern on the huge pendency of cases in various courts of the country in some of its judgements in the recent past. Disposal of cases in courts falls within the domain of the judiciary. In order to expedite the trial of court cases, a number of legislative changes have been made in procedural laws which include provisions for limiting adjournments of court proceedings in criminal and civil matters as contained in Section 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and Order XVII of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

Further, in order to assist the judiciary, the Government has set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms to achieve twin goals of (i) increasing access to justice by reducing delays and arrears; and (ii) enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and improving capacities. The Mission has adopted a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration by providing support for better court infrastructure including computerisation, encouraging increase in the strength of subordinate judiciary and recommending policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation.

The challenges posed by huge backlog and pendency of cases in our judicial system cannot be met without the active involvement of the judiciary. The Chief Justice of India, after consulting the Minister of Law and Justice, established the National Court Management Systems (NCMS) in May, 2012. The 'Policy and Action Plan' document to implement NCMS was released by the Chief Justice of India on 27.9.2012. NCMS is responsible for preparing a policy guideline for developing a National Framework of Court Excellence (NFCE) to set measurable performance standards for Indian courts to address issues of quality, responsiveness and timeliness to facilitate timely delivery of justice.

Judgements and orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court are reported in various Law Reports. Copies of the Judgements and Orders of the Supreme Court are also available on-line at Supreme Court's website.